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20 Jan 47

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Attached.

Attached for your signature, if you concur, is a memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence, subject: Reciprocal Agreement with BBC Monitoring Service.

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20 January 1947

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS****Subject: Reciprocal Agreement with BBC Monitoring Service.**

1. Reference is made to the following memoranda pertaining to the above subject:

- a. Memorandum to [redacted] from the Director, FBIIS, of 13 September 1946. (TAB "A" attached.) 25X1
- b. Memorandum to Director, FBIIS, from Col. Wright of 17 October 1946. (TAB "B" attached.)
- c. Memorandum to Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, attention: Chief Signal Officer, from Director of Central Intelligence, of 13 November 1946. (TAB "C" attached.) 25X1
- d. Memorandum from [redacted] Director of Intelligence, WDCS, to Director of Central Intelligence, 9 December 1946. (TAB "D" attached.) 25X1
- e. Memorandum from [redacted], Acting Assistant Chief Signal Officer, to Director of Central Intelligence, 17 December 1946. (TAB "E" attached.)

2. During the war, FBIIS had an informal reciprocal agreement with the Monitoring Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the British Ministry of Information, and the U. S. Office of War Information, whereby the foreign broadcasts intercepted by the four agencies would be freely interchanged. The purpose of the agreement was to effect economies by dividing the job of world-wide monitoring and eliminating unnecessary duplication. The committee which coordinated this arrangement was known as the United Nations Monitoring Committee and had its headquarters in London.

3. The BBC Monitoring Service intercepted foreign broadcasts from Europe and turned the content over to FBIIS editors located at the BBC station near London. The British Ministry of Information monitored foreign broadcasts from the Middle East and India with stations located at Cairo and New Delhi. This broadcast material was turned over to OWI representatives in these cities. FBIIS monitored broadcasts from the Far East, Latin America, Africa and Europe and made the material available to British Ministry of Information representatives located in Washington and San Francisco. The only parts of this reciprocal agreement which have continued to function since the end of the war are the

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exchange of BBC European monitored material with FBIS in London and the FBIS Middle Eastern intercept material with British representatives in Cairo. (On 1 June 1946, FBIS assumed operational control of the British MDI monitoring station at Cairo.)

4. The present reciprocal arrangement gives this country far more material from the British than we return. Thus, the BBC listening post near London provides FBIS with approximately 100,000 words of broadcast text each day, whereas the FBIS post in Cairo makes available to the British less than 15,000 words of broadcast text each day.

5. The British are interested in equalizing the reciprocal agreement by having FBIS provide them with monitored material from the Far East and Latin America that is not possible for the British to intercept in London. It is in the interests of CIG to enter into such an agreement with the British since if BBC refused to turn over to FBIS the product of its European monitoring, it would cost CIG at least one million dollars a year to duplicate the BBC monitoring operation.

6. Any reciprocal arrangement should be negotiated as soon as possible in order that we may know our commitments prior to the end of the present fiscal year. It is the desire of the Office of Operations to send the Chief of the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch and the Chief of the CIG Communications Division to London early in March to negotiate a proper reciprocal arrangement with the Director of the BBC Monitoring Service and other interested British officials. We consider it necessary to meet in London rather than in Washington because the Director of the BBC Monitoring Service cannot come to the United States prior to the end of May. Even with him here, however, it is improbable that he could commit other agencies of his government to a final agreement and negotiations might continue over an extended period of time. There are important economy factors connected with the reciprocal agreement proposed below which make it imperative that reciprocity be agreed to at the earliest possible date.

7. The following plan for reciprocity is submitted for CIG's approval.

a. Service Provided the United States by Great Britain:

- (1) The monitored text, roughly 100,000 words daily, of medium wave and low-powered short wave foreign broadcast intercepts from Europe. This would be made available to FBIS editors in London, as at present.
- (2) Authorization and aid by British authorities for FBIS to install a Middle Eastern monitoring station on the Island of Cyprus. This aid would include transmission of the copy to London by the British or authorization for FBIS to operate

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- 3 -

its own transmitter from Cyprus to a point in Germany.

b. Service Provided Great Britain by the United States:

- (1) A copy in London of the foreign broadcast material intercepted at the FBIS Middle Eastern listening post. This material would either be sent to London by the British or a drop copy be given them of the file sent via an FBIS transmitter.
- (2) A 25,000 word daily file of broadcast material intercepted by FBIS from Latin America and the Far East. This file would be selected and transmitted by a total of four FBIS employees in Washington at a cost of approximately \$15,000 per year. An alternative would be to have BBC provide its own personnel to work at FBIS headquarters. This would be comparable to the present arrangement whereby a staff of FBIS editors and teletypists are located at the BBC offices in Caversham.
- (3) The file of selected Far Eastern and Latin American broadcasts would be sent to London via Signal Corps facilities. (CIG has been advised by the Signal Corps that the latter can handle this traffic.)

8. It is our opinion that the above plan would represent as equitable a reciprocal agreement as is practical. The British would be providing us with approximately 100,000 words daily of foreign broadcast text representing monitoring coverage of approximately 1,000,000 words from Europe. In addition they would make it possible for FBIS to establish its Middle Eastern monitoring post in a relatively stable area and save a considerable sum of money that is presently being spent for commercial communications. In return, FBIS would turn over daily to BBC 40,000 words selected from monitored coverage of approximately 1,500,000 words. If the selection of this file in Washington were handled by FBIS editors, it would cost CIG not more than \$15,000 per year as long as the Signal Corps provides communications facilities. This expenditure would be insignificant compared to the \$150,000 per year it would cost FBIS to continue its present use of commercial facilities from the Middle East.

9. Once a practical reciprocal program is worked out in London between operating personnel of CIG and operating personnel of the British, it probably will be necessary to obtain a final decision from the British Foreign Office. When this occurs, the American Ambassador

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might best handle such negotiations. In view of this, we believe that the State Department should be advised of our plan in advance so that it, in turn, will have time to instruct the Ambassador in London of the American policy on these negotiations.

10. The Chief of the FBIS mission in London has informed this office that the British are agreeable to holding the proposed meeting in London any time after 10 March 1947.

11. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a. That CIC agree to the reciprocal program outlined in paragraph 7 above.
- b. That the State Department be advised of our interest in this matter and that its Ambassador in London assist our representatives in working out this agreement with the British.
- c. That the Chief of FBIS and the Chief, Communications Division, CIC, be sent to London in March to negotiate the most favorable reciprocal agreement possible within the framework outlined in paragraph 7.

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Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Director for Operations

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cc: 

Return to Chief, FBIS

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TAB "A"

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13 September 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Col. Edwin K. Wright
Central Intelligence Group
Room 2100, New War Department Building

FROM: Director, FBIS

SUBJECT: Future Relations Between FBIS and BBC Monitoring Service.

1. At the present time FBIS receives the product of the British monitoring of European broadcasts. This BBC service makes available to FBIS approximately 250,000 words a day of some of the most important foreign broadcasts. Most of the FBIS coverage of Russian broadcasts, for example, has been obtained through the BBC Monitoring Service. In return for this BBC monitoring, FBIS is not reciprocating with any monitoring service.

2. Last June I discussed with the Director of the BBC Monitoring Service the future working relationship between FBIS and BBC. At that time BBC had not formulated its long-range plans for monitoring and did not expect to have any complete program outlined until sometime this fall. It was agreed at that time that the present arrangement between FBIS and BBC would continue for the rest of the fiscal year 1947, but beginning with fiscal year 1948, BBC would desire remuneration either in cash or in kind.

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3. This week we received the following cable from [redacted], the FBIS representative in London:

"41740 [redacted] Now seems probable that BBC will futarely wish reciprocate their European service for our Far East and Cairo services. In negotiating an important factor will be to what extent we will be able provide BBC toll free transmissions into UK over our circuits to avoid dollar expenditure. Final decision however not yet reached highest level. [redacted]"

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4. If BBC requests a file of the FBIS Middle East and Far East monitoring as payment for the European monitoring we receive from BBC, it raises the following policy question:

Should this government depend exclusively on another foreign power for a large segment of one of the principal sources of intelligence material? To do so means no control by FBIS over the monitoring of European broadcasts performed

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Col. Wright, CIG

- 2 -

15 September 1948

by BBC. Even if it is assumed that the British will make available to FBIS every single item it monitors, there can be very legitimately a wide variance in transmitter coverage required by the two different countries. For example, BBC does not monitor the British broadcasts to Germany, but these broadcasts are desired by intelligence officials in this country. Also, since BBC is a private corporation, it may restrict its budget for monitoring to eliminate the coverage of European transmitters that it considers marginal, but which CIG may consider very important.

5. From a purely operational standpoint a reciprocal arrangement between FBIS and BBC would have the following advantages:

a. It would save CIG at least \$1,000,000. This would be the minimum cost of duplicating the present BBC monitoring service if FBIS established an independent listening post on the continent.

b. It would eliminate the necessity of our spending at least a year recruiting and training a staff of experts comparable to the present BBC staff. Due to the scarcity of United States citizens with the unique linguistic skills required by monitoring, the recruiting of a competent European staff would be exceptionally difficult.

6. The operational disadvantages of a reciprocal arrangement are as follows:

a. No control over the BBC monitoring schedule.

b. FBIS, through Signal Corps facilities, would have to file up to 20,000 words per day of Far Eastern monitoring from Washington to London. This would require an additional staff of three editors and three teletypists.

7. FBIS operational Recommendations:

a. A reciprocity agreement be entered into with BBC for fiscal year 1948, at least.

b. A small supplemental listening post be established by FBIS near Frankfurt as soon as possible to cover the broadcasts required by CIG that are not included in the BBC schedule. With such a station in operation, it would be much easier to expand at a later date if it is decided as a policy matter to discontinue the reciprocity arrangement.

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TAB "B"

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17 October 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FOREIGN BROADCAST INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, 1424 K STREET, N.W., Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Future Relations Between F.B.I.S. and B.B.C. Monitoring Service.

1. With reference to your memorandum of 15 September 1946 to the undersigned concerning the above subject, you are requested to prepare the following papers which may be used as a basis for an ultimate I.A.B. paper enabling F.B.I.S. to undertake the proposals recommended in paragraph 7 of above reference:

a. Draft of a letter to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (Attention, Chief Signal Officer) for the signature of the Director of Central Intelligence seeking to ascertain the adequacy of Signal Corps facilities to undertake the necessary work described in paragraph 6b of above reference, as well as their willingness to do so.

b. A complete itemization, insofar as practicable, regarding the proposed listening post at Frankfurt, Germany, to include estimates of operating costs, equipment and personnel expected to be required. This bill of particulars will be used by this office when inquiry is made at the War Department as to whether or not the Commanding General, U. S. Forces, European Theater, can administratively support the project.

2. The above papers should be sent upon completion to the Central Intelligence Group marked for the attention of the Assistant Director for Operations.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

/s/ E. K. Wright
E. K. WRIGHT
Colonel, GSO
Executive to the Director

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TAB "C"

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November 13, 1946

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CIG-A 4.088

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY

Attention: Chief Signal Officer

Through: Director of Intelligence, WDGS

1. The Central Intelligence Group will be meeting with representatives of the British Broadcasting Corporation to work out an agreement whereby CIG may continue to receive the product of the BBC Monitoring Service in London, England. It is expected that the British will request a reciprocal agreement in return for the monitored material it has been giving the U. S. Government free of charge. Reciprocity requested will probably be the product of our Latin American and Far Eastern monitoring product. This would entail the daily transmission of a 25,000 word file from Washington to London.

2. On the assumption that BBC will want a file of the Latin American and Far Eastern monitoring, CIG would like to be advised as to the following:

a. Does the Signal Corps have facilities to transmit a 25,000 word file daily from Washington to London and, if so, does it expect to have such facilities throughout fiscal year 1947? It is assumed that the Foreign Broadcast Information Service of CIG will prepare the tape for this file and transmit it to WAB from WPS for relay to London.

b. If the facilities are available, will the Signal Corps be willing to transmit this daily file beginning on or about 1 February 1947?

3. It would be appreciated if CIG could have the answers to the above questions within the next month so that the information will be available when negotiations get underway with the British.

cc: Asst. Dir. for Operations
Exec. for FA
Central Records - 2
Central Registry - 1
Return to

/s/ Hoyt S. Vandenberg
HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, USA
Director of Central Intelligence

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TAB "D"

December 9, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Use of Signal Corps Facilities between Washington and London for FBIS Transmission.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum for the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, dated 13 November 1946, attention: Chief Signal Officer, through the Director of Intelligence, WDCS, subject as above.

2. Information received from the Office of the Chief Signal Officer states that previous commitments have filled the traffic capacity of the Army Communication Service channels to a maximum through the fiscal year 1946.

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Major General, CSC
Director of Intelligence

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TAB "E"

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Signal Officer
Washington 25, D. C.

SISCC-14

17 December 1946

SUBJECT: Communication Facilities between the Zone of Interior and Overseas Areas

TO: Director
Central Intelligence Group
Room 2172, New War Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

1. The following information relative to the capability of the Army Command and Administrative Network facilities for handling Central Intelligence Group traffic is furnished in answer to your recent request.

a. From Zone of Interior to Europe.

No decrease in capability is anticipated. An increase, 25,000 word groups daily can be absorbed for an indefinite period.

b. From Europe to Zone of Interior.

An additional load of approximately 25,000 word groups daily can be presently handled, but previous commitments for War Department traffic and an increase in higher priority messages indicate all Central Intelligence Group traffic must be discontinued in early spring 1947.

c. From Zone of Interior to Pacific.

Based on present traffic levels, no curtailment in Central Intelligence Group traffic is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

d. From Pacific to Zone of Interior.

Based on present traffic levels, no curtailment in Central Intelligence Group traffic is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

FOR THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER:

/s/ W. O. KEEFER
Brigadier General, Signal Corps
Acting Asst Chief Signal Officer

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